

RULE OF LAW PARTNERSHIP IN UZBEKISTAN

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INFORMATION
BULLETIN
1 15



Dear colleagues and partners,
Reform of the justice system and enhancement of the openness and accessibility of the civil courts are the key components of the national concept "On further deepening of democratic reforms and development of civil society", declared in 2010 by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. Several foundational documents were developed in support of this reform, particularly, Presidential Decree "On measures of core improvement of social protection of judges and judicial staff" from August 2, 2012, the Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures of implementation of modern communication-information technologies into the courts" from 10 December 2012, as well as the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan declared in 2014 "On the openness of public authorities and administration", all aimed at improving the effectiveness of public institutions, administrative bodies, as well as judicial system.

Taking into account the above reforms, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been in close collaboration with UNDP since 2012, particularly, within the framework of the project "Civil Justice Reform: Effective Court Management". Development and piloting of E-SUD electronic case management system was among the crucial achievements of the project, which was also presented by Uzbekistan at 68 session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2013.

It should be noted that as a result of the efforts of the previous project, in 2014 more than 23 thousand applications were filed electronically using feature of E-SUD system. Preliminary analyses showed that using E-SUD for handling cases in writ proceedings can result in time savings of up to 50%. As per requirements of legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan E-SUD system underwent certification process and was recommended for usage in courts on civil cases.

"Rule of Law Partnership in Uzbekistan" project is a continuation of the above efforts, and within its framework it is planned to expand the use of the E-SUD electronic case management system in eight additional civil courts of Tashkent and Tashkent region. In addition, it is envisioned that the additional modules of E-SUD will be developed in appeal, cassation and supervisory instances. Currently, the project is working on improving the existing procedural legislation in relation to introduction of E-SUD, as well as initiated the development of the handbook for judges on the use of E-SUD.

Wishing you a good reading.

Kholmumin Yodgorov,
Chairman of the Judicial Board on Civil Cases
Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
National Coordinator of the Project



Dear colleagues and partners,
The on-going judiciary reform in Uzbekistan demonstrates the Government's commitment to enhance access to justice for the most vulnerable and simultaneously create conditions for transparency of various branches of the judiciary. Effective and transparent judiciary will enhance people's trust in the rule of law, effective resolution of disputes and enforcement of contracts. The United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan is proud to assist the Government of Uzbekistan in these efforts since 2012. The piloted e-justice system "E-SUD" has passed state certification and was highly rated by UNDP in terms of results achievement.

It should be noted, that access to justice is an important part of the post-2015 Development Agenda and has been proposed as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals which will succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The importance of open and accessible justice system on social and economic well-being is tremendous, since such standards help create effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

We are thrilled that our partnership with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan is now in its second phase through – "Rule of Law Partnership in Uzbekistan" project. The Project is a new joint initiative of UNDP and USAID. The main goal of the project is to strengthen public access to and trust in the judiciary. The Project will work towards this goal through a primary partnership with the Supreme Court and, as appropriate, other justice sector stakeholders, including the High Economic Court, Judicial department at the Ministry of Justice, building on these institutions' effort to strengthen public trust and achieve greater alignment with internationally recognized standards of accountability and performance.

The first issue of the Project's Newsletter is covering the major results of our cooperation with the Supreme Court throughout 2012-2014 and the new stage of our partnership within the Rule of Law Project. It also gives a broad overview of "E-SUD" e-justice system that is currently being expanded to cover 8 additional civil courts and new instances.

We wish you an interesting reading on behalf of our extended team.

Stefan Priesner,
Resident Representative
UNDP Uzbekistan

KEY RESULTS OF SUPREME COURT – UNDP COOPERATION IN 2012-2014:



The main goal of the “Civil Justice Reform: Effective Court Management” project, implemented jointly by the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan and UNDP in 2012-2014, was to provide technical support in strengthening the institutional foundation of the civil courts in Uzbekistan. The project team achieved the following results:

1. Creation of favorable conditions for further development of civil justice both on the legislative level (de jure) and in practice (de facto): The project experts developed a number of analytical notes and policy briefs, such as "Determining the caseload", "The appeal of court decisions", "Revision of the decisions of the courts on newly discovered evidence", "Review of the decisions of courts in absentia", "On introduction of changes and amendments into the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan", as well as proposals for the implementation of the Presidential Decree "On measures to improve and enhance the effectiveness of the district and city courts of general jurisdiction" № 4570 dated October 4, 2013. The experts also developed proposals into the procedural legislation related to the introduction of “E-SUD” electronic case management system. The project also developed and published a handbook on resolution of marital and family disputes, and the collection of templates of rulings of first instance civil courts.



2. Improving access to justice through the introduction of e-justice system, improvement of the quality of courts' decisions, ensuring enforcement mechanism as well as public awareness raising on legal measures of civil rights protection:

1. Piloting of “E-SUD” electronic case management system in Zangiota interdistrict civil court was a key result of project activity throughout 2012-2014. Caption: Hearing hall at Zangiota interdistrict civil court

In order to ensure successful piloting of the “E-SUD” electronic case management system, Zangiota pilot civil court was equipped with a computer network, the necessary ICT equipment (2 servers, 6 computers, 4 printers, 2 scanners with Autolock function, and 2 information terminals), audio-video trial recording system, turnstile, video surveillance, uninterrupted power supply, including, diesel generator.

“E-SUD” electronic case management system is aimed at automating the processing of civil cases and cases of writ production, subsequently increasing the transparency of the courts, and improving public awareness about the judiciary.



Caption: Hearing hall at Zangiota interdistrict civil court

*E-justice system in writ proceedings
was successfully tested
in Zangiota interdistrict civil court.*

In 2014 Zangiota interdistrict civil court ruled 20,000 cases out of 23,000 that were filed electronically, thus recovering 772,941,4 thousand soums in debt, and ruled more than 30 civil cases in first instance.

The building of Zangiota interdistrict court was renovated for an amount of 1.1 billion soums allocated from the Court and judiciary development Fund. The overhaul of the court building was carried out based on the generally accepted court construction standards.

Improving the quality of claims:

To ensure the completeness and reliability of the documents submitted to the court, it is necessary to determine not only the types of documents received by the courts, but also the type of information which should be reflected in them. Such accurate grouping of information will simplify the processing and systematization of documents for further analysis. In fact, there was a need to identify a list of possible claims in civil cases.

The designed list included 256 types of sample claims (in claim, plaintive and special proceedings), which were combined into 17 groups. In comparison, the current statistical reporting of courts in civil cases contains 42 types of claims combined into 13 groups.

It should be noted that this is a continuous process, in fact, such determination of sample claim types should be carried out on a regular basis, and should be based on a thorough analysis of legislation and judicial practice.

The proposed list of claims allows “E-SUD” electronic case management system to collect relevant information on the cases right at the time of electronic filing of documents via Internet. The proposed list of sample claims also serves as a foundation for state claim processing fee calculator, which is integrated into the “E-SUD” system. **Such classification allows to improve the quality of claims since all necessary information is collected at the initial stage thus ensuring timely and full consideration of the claim.**

Besides, such classification will allow to conduct a more detailed and in depth analysis of causes and reasons of disputes in the future, given successful and accurate implementation.



Caption: The building of Zangiota interdistrict civil court



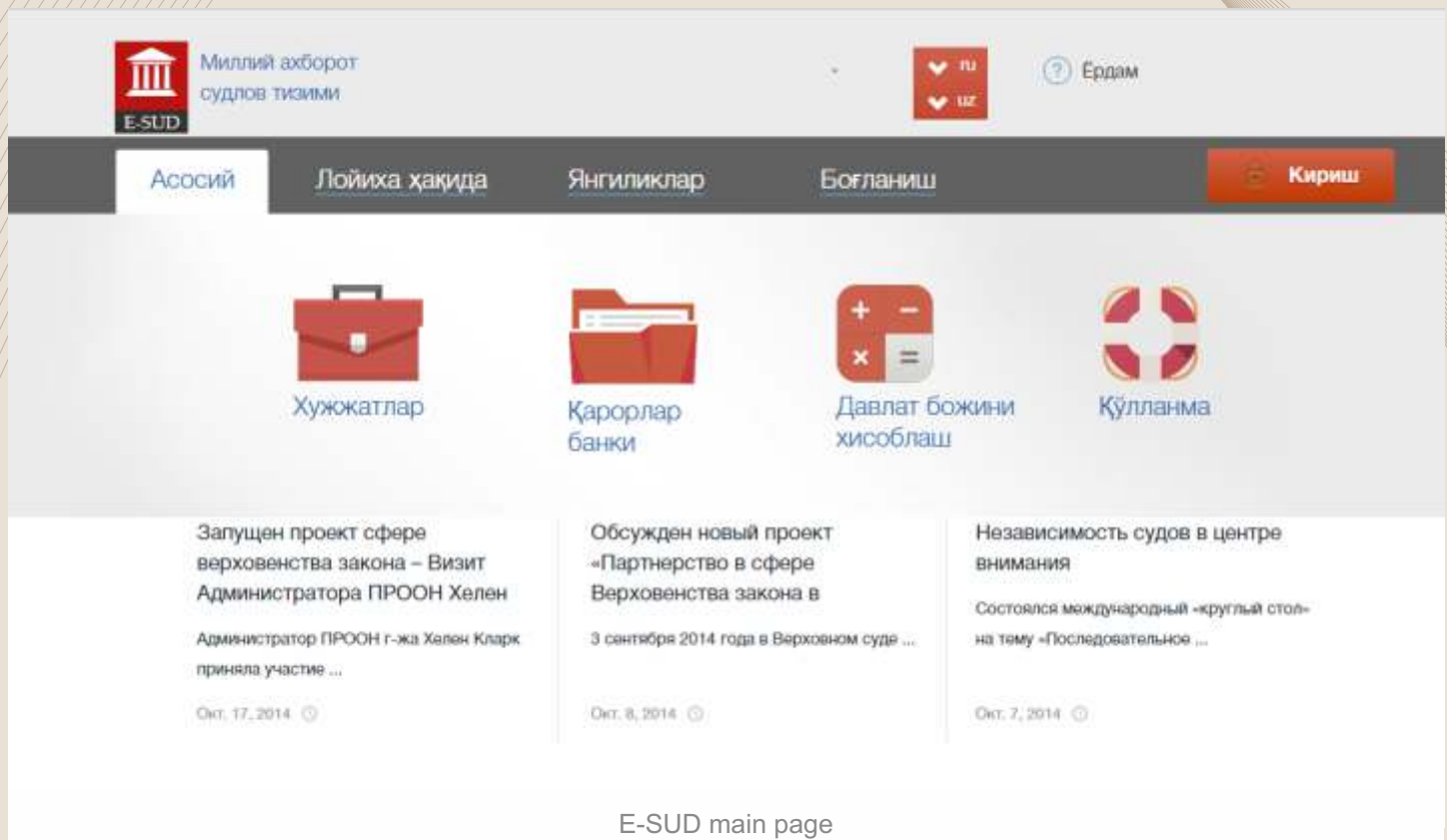
Caption: Information booth at Zangiota interdistrict civil court



Caption: Presentation of “E-SUD” electronic case management system in Zangiota interdistrict civil court

Key advantages of “E-SUD” electronic case management system:

- growth in a number of interactive services provided by courts to population (electronic case filing systems, provision of real time information on the status of case, access to procedural acts, etc);
- introduction of modern means of notification (SMS messages, e-mail, virtual office) informing clients of the civil proceedings;
- introduction of personal application forms of writs and other applications filed to the court;
- promotion of paperless data exchange in courts and elimination of registration books;
- Improved performance of judges due to the use of decision templates (**104 template rulings, 11 orders, more than 40 decisions developed and included in the information system**) based on the data of the case available in the system. The judges are able to provide timely rulings in civil cases and will avoid violations of procedural deadlines;
- Centralized and automated collection and compilation of statistics, without involvement of judges and court personnel;
- Timely exchange of information between the courts and bailiffs, leading to increased levels of enforceability of judgments;
- Reduced costs of civil courts.



E-SUD main page

This is how it works: to file a claim electronically the applicant must select a certain type of claim from the list. Following that, the information system will request the data needed for successful and timely resolution of dispute. For instance, if the claimant chooses "reinstatement", the information system, among other things, will request the claimant to provide "the grounds on which an employment contract has been terminated."

“E-SUD” electronic case management system underwent state examination conducted by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Development, and was recommended for introduction in civil courts.

Preliminary analysis showed that using “E-SUD” electronic case management system allows for time savings of up to 50% in writ proceedings. This system allows for simplification of procedures related to filing claims to the courts for citizens and simultaneously helps to improve their quality, increase the efficiency of the courts, the quality of decisions, saves time and resources, and importantly creates foundation for transparency and accessibility of information about the trial.

E-SUD
Электрон Суд Тизими

Олий суднинг тест базаси
Тошкент шаҳри

Олий суд раиси
Суд раиси
Чизиш

Асосий | Жаъвал | Ҳисоботлар

Аризалар (5982)

- Тақдимиш (27)
- Қўриб чиқиш (509)
- Рақ этилган (603)
- Ҳаракатини қолдирилган (1)
- Қабул қилинган (1)
- Тайёрлашда (1)
- Тугатилган (0)
- Қурмасдан қолдирилган (1)
- Тугатилган (2)
- Судда қўрилган (3)
- Қамоқлантирилган (12)
- Қамоқлантирилган (4822)

[Тизимни бошқариш](#)

Аризалар

АРИЗА ТУРИ	РҲҲ №	РҲҲ САНАСИ	МАСЪУЛ ШҲСЫ	ДАЪВОГАР НОМИ	ЖАВОБГАР НОМИ	ДАЪВО ТУРИ	НШ ҲОЛАТИ
Даъво	3	21.04.2015	Алимов Фарход Каримович	Зангиотатуманга	Жамонгир Сотибодиев	Ишга тиклиш	Судда қўрилган
Даъво	2	21.04.2015	Алимов Фарход Каримович	Зангиотатуманга	Мирзаимедов Дониёр Камилджанович	Ишга тиклиш	Судда қўрилган
Даъво	4697	04.12.2014	Алимов Фарход Каримович		Жавобгар	Никондан ажратиш	Қурмасдан қолдирилган
Даъво	1	21.04.2015		Азизов Азизбек Азизович	Бахтияр Акмал Раҳматиллоевич	Ишга тиклиш	Тақдимиш
Даъво	4	25.04.2015			Жавобгар	Ишга тиклиш	Тақдимиш
Даъво	4695	03.12.2014		Даъвогар	Жавобгар	Функциянинг шайлан ва кадр-қиммати билан қимоя қилиш	Тақдимиш

Court Chairman's profile in E-SUD system

Русский | Ўзбекча

Нозаров Алимжан
информация

Мои заявления

- Вопросы
- Создать заявление
- Профиль
- Настройки

Тип заявления: ☒ Судебный приказ ☐ Судебные производства

Суд:

Основное требование:

[СОЗДАТЬ](#) [ОТКАЗА](#)

Creating a petition (writ proceedings or first instance civil cases) in E-SUD user profile

Русский | Ўзбекча

Нозаров Алимжан
информация

Мои заявления

- Вопросы
- Создать заявление
- Профиль
- Настройки

Тип заявления: ☒ Моё ☐ Другое

От имени: ☒ Физическое лицо ☐ Юридическое лицо

* Ф.И.О. (Полностью):

* Адрес:

Область:

Город/район:

Почтовый индекс:

Телефон:

Факс:

Мобильный:

Email:

ID.UZ:

ИНН:

Организационно правовая форма:

Расчетный счет:

Название банка:

Код банка:

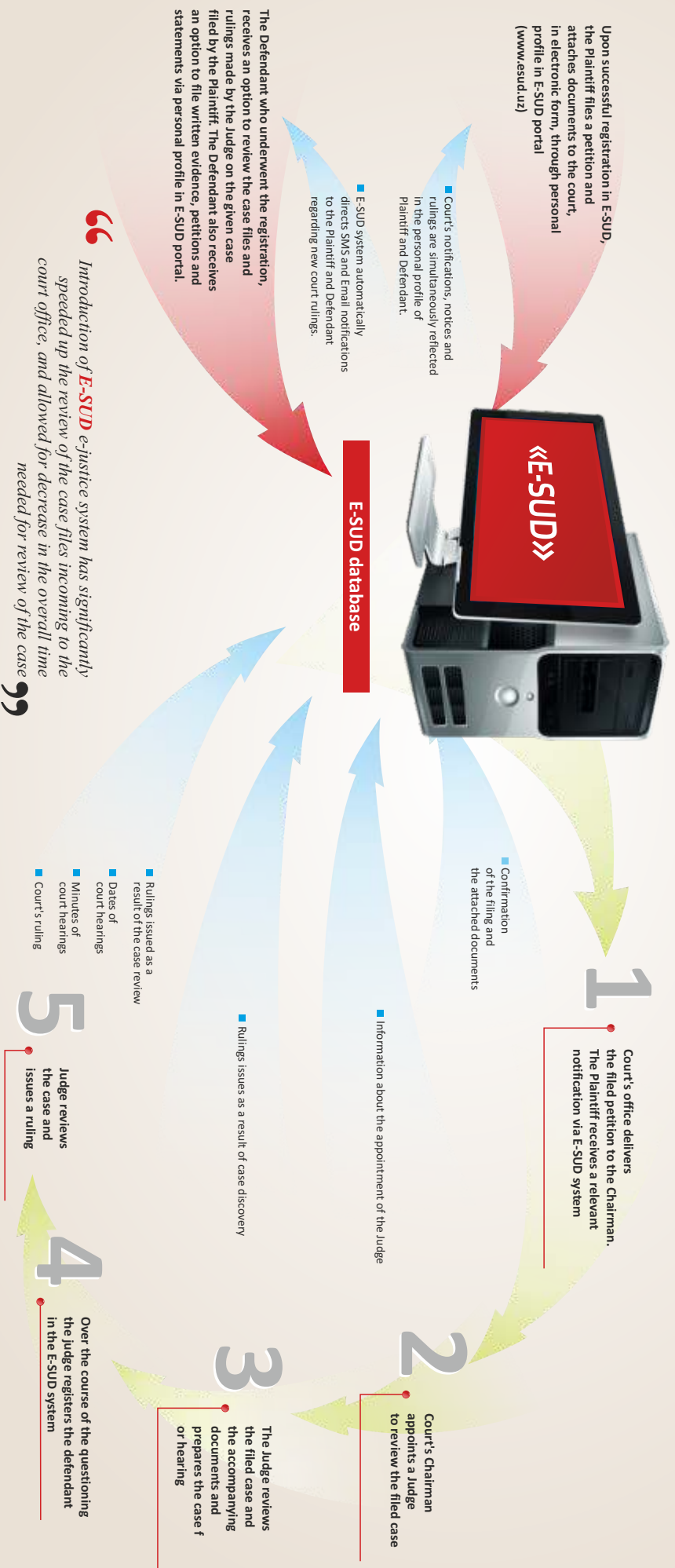
Дата рождения:

Пол: ☐ Мужской ☐ Женский

Место работы:

Creating a claim in user profile

E-SUD workflow



*In writ proceedings, a judge on average issues four copies of court orders (4 sheets of paper) and two accompanying letters (2 sheets of paper). 11*234*6= 67,404 sheets of paper*

Use of "E-SUD" e-justice system (including the electronic delivery of notices of court proceedings and acts) would help save 67,404 sheets of paper.

A judge spends two minutes on average to generate one sheet of paper in writing. Using "E-SUD" e-justice system will allow for 50% time savings in generation of court decisions in writ proceedings.

That is to generate 11,234 orders in writing, judges on average spend 44,936 minutes or 31.2 days. When using "E-SUD" e-justice system, they would have spent 15.6 days producing the same number of orders.

67,404 sheets of A4 paper make up approximately 134 packs. If we consider that one pack of paper costs about 12,500 soums, given courts use "E-SUD" to its full capacity they could save 1.6 million soums in paper expenses in one court and more than 125 million soums in 75 courts. This calculation does not include the paper expenses carried by the trial parties.

It should be noted that it takes 17 trees to produce 1 ton of paper. 1 sheet of A4 paper weighs about 5 grams. 67,404 sheets of paper weigh 0,377 tons. Thus, given courts use «E-SUD» to its full capacity, we could save 5.7 trees.

3. Improving efficiency of civil justice: As a wrap-up of the project activity, an international workshop on 'Issues of the Effective Usage of Information-Communication Technologies in Courts' Activities' was organized on November 20, 2014. Over the course of the workshop, the participants discussed the current status of introduction of ICT to courts in Uzbekistan, exchanged proposals on further improvement of procedural legislation with a potential to streamline the introduction of ICT into courts, and generated a number of relevant recommendations.

Key experts from Korea, Malta, Bulgaria and Germany expressed their recognition and appreciation of Supreme Court and Supreme Economic Court for implementing programmes prioritizing the incorporation of modern ICT tools into court activities.

As a result of the meeting, three proposals were delivered to further improve the use of ICT in Uzbekistan. Firstly, it was proposed that acting procedural legislation should be amended, to make sure they accommodate provisions that allow for the regulated use of ICT in courts. Secondly it was proposed that measures should be adopted to improve the data mining mechanisms on the activities of courts.

Last but not least, it was proposed that a new unit should be established within the judicial system, with the primary purpose to promote nationwide use of ICT in courts. In particular, this agency would be responsible for the efficiency, identification and elimination of hurdles faced in the use of ICT in courts, thereby helping to streamline and improve its use.

In order to present "E-SUD" electronic case management system to the public and exchange international experience in this area, international workshop themed "Introduction of ICT in courts - an important factor in increasing the efficiency of the judiciary: the advanced experience of foreign countries" was held on September 18, 2013 in Bukhara. Representatives of the Supreme Court, members of the Senate and the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis, representatives of the Judicial Department of the Ministry of Justice, judges, law enforcement agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders took part in the workshop. In addition, there were international experts attending the workshop, particularly, the Chairman of the Supreme Court of Malaysia, representatives of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea, experts from the United States, Estonia and Germany.

As a result, the participants discussed the issues of further improvement of current procedural legislation to ensure widespread introduction of ICT in courts and shared specific proposals.





LAUNCH OF THE "RULE OF LAW PARTNERSHIP IN UZBEKISTAN" PROJECT:

October 16, 2014 – "Rule of law partnership in Uzbekistan" project was officially launched at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The launch event was attended by UNDP Administrator Ms. Helen Clark. The project is a continuation of extensive work undertaken by UNDP and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in strengthening the efficiency and accessibility of the nation's courts, and the population's access to essential judiciary services.

During the event, Ms. Clark commended recent constitutional amendments and on-going judiciary reform, congratulated partners on the launch of the new joint initiative, and underlined rule of law as a core pillar of UNDP's work both in Uzbekistan and around the globe. Ms. Clark also drew attention to the role e-government tools can play in helping increase the transparency of and simplify access to courts, while also reducing the bureaucratic barriers faced in administering justice. This will make sure vulnerable groups can benefit from easy access to dispute resolution mechanisms. Also at the project launch, Ms. Clark gave her thanks to USAID for their joint efforts, and for providing support to the upcoming project.



Caption: (from right to left) Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, Mr. Stefan Priesner, Resident Representative of UNDP in Uzbekistan, Mr. Farid Garakhanov, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Uzbekistan, Mr. Jan Harfst, Chief, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, UNDP

Expanding “E-SUD” e-justice system

Advantages of “E-SUD” e-justice system



“Rule of Law Partnership in Uzbekistan” Project is expanding the “E-SUD” electronic case management system initially piloted by “Civil Justice Reform: Effective Court Management” project.

Up to date, project experts have expanded the system in terms of first instance civil cases, particularly, additional functions were developed related to claim, plaintive and special production, as well as statistics module.

It is planned to launch “E-SUD” in 8 civil courts of Tashkent city and Tashkent region by the end of 2015. Besides, it is planned to develop additional modules in appeal, cassation and supervisory instances in the near future, thus allowing for a top-down communication between first and higher instance civil courts.

To ensure sustainability, the project team is currently developing proposals and amendments into procedural legislation related to introduction of e-justice system, as well as handbook on the use of “E-SUD” e-justice system for judges and court personnel.

Advantages of “E-SUD” e-justice system

Expanding “E-SUD” e-justice system

DATE	TYPE	STATUS	DATE OF RECEIPT	DATE OF DECISION	DATE OF EXECUTION
17	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015
18	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015
19	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015
20	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015
21	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015
22	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015
23	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015
24	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015
25	18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015	18.04.2015	18.04.2015

View of the Judge's profile (“Petitions” module)

For external users:

- submission of claims, petitions and accompanying documents in electronic form to courts;
- tracking the progress of case, without physically visiting the courthouse;
- delivery of court notices in electronic form, directly following their compilation;
- access to the procedural acts adopted when considering civil cases;
- access to court documents, including decisions and rulings, after their depersonalization.

NAME	POSITION	STATUS
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015

E-SUD user profile

DATE	TYPE	STATUS
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015

View of the Judge's profile (“Reports” module)

For internal users:

- automated compilation of case files;
- automated delivery of court notices, and notifications about changes in cases and adopted procedural acts;
- automated compilation of certain procedural acts on the basis of the templates developed and included in the system;
- automated data collection, processing and storage, and the systematization of data about courts' activities;
- automated publication of procedural acts, for parties involved in a case;
- automated generation of statistical reporting.

DATE	TYPE	STATUS
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
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18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015
18.04.2015	Accepted	18.04.2015

Rulings database in user profile

South Korea

Malaysia >

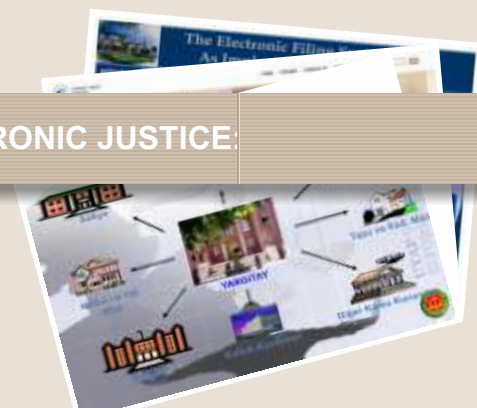
Turkey >

German 

Russian Federation 



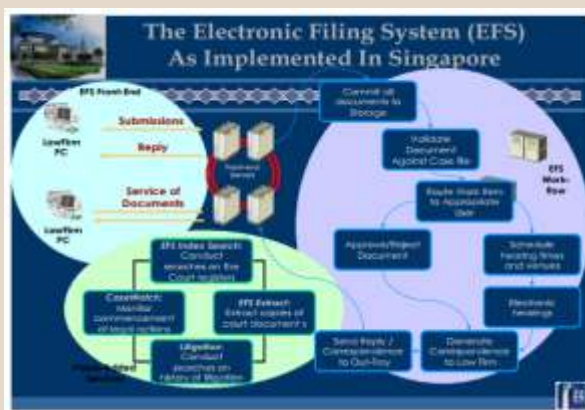
Singapore



There is a specific e-justice platform - «eLitigation», allowing for online case filing and based on Integrated Electronic Litigation System (iELS) it enables electronic file and data exchange. The filed document is automatically checked against the procedural legislation and is redirected to corresponding registry for further processing. The Electronic Filing System automatically determines the route of the document in the court, ensures automatic review of each document and further processing of the case.

To access the electronic filing system, the users must register and have the necessary equipment, as well as the licensed software.

The courts act as an independent certification center: upon registration the system issues a smart card containing a digital certificate which allows the users to access and use the services offered by the EFS.



Singapore >

SOUTH KOREA >

Malaysia >

Turkey >

German >

Russian Federation >

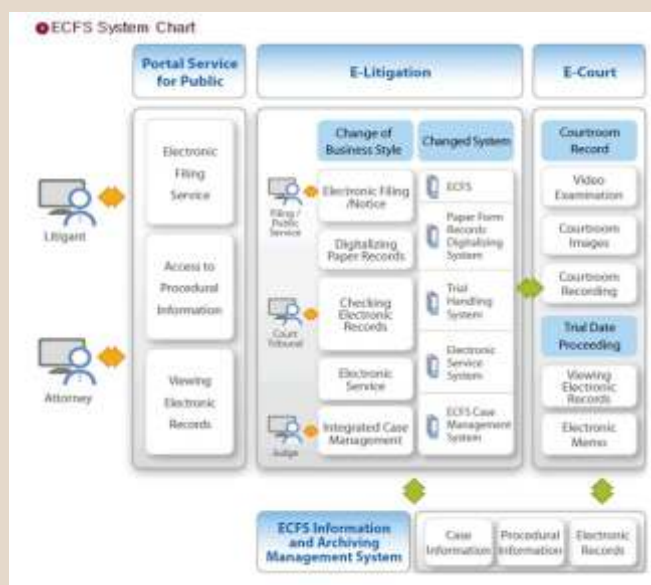


South Korea

The Electronic Case Filing System (ECFS) -

<http://eng.scourt.go.kr/eng/ecourt/introduction.jsp> is the Korean Judiciary's electronic litigation system. It is a comprehensive system that allows litigants and their attorneys to file and manage cases, as well as access court information and procedures electronically. They are able to file all court documents, documentary evidence and digital evidence over the Internet without physically visiting the courts. After filing a case via ECFS, the plain-

tiffs/petitioners receive e-mail and text message notifications when the other parties submit documents to the court. If the defendants/respondents consent to e-filing, they may also receive electronic notices of the other parties' filings. Such notice, in conjunction with access to case records and procedures electronically, allows all parties using ECFS to promptly check the current status of the proceedings.



Malaysia

Singapore >

South Korea >

MALAYSIA >

Turkey >

German >

Russian Federation >

The official website of Malaysia Supreme Court - www.kehakiman.gov.my/en provides visitors information about the country's judicial system, particularly, about the Supreme Court, its Chairman, Court of Appeals and Federal Court. In addition, there is information on the courts of the administrative-territorial division.

The site has a special interface for persons with disabilities (visually impaired users can use the zoom font, font color, background shading and other options).

The site is integrated with popular social networks, you can subscribe to a feed. The site is designed in three languages.

Services and information is divided into separate categories for legal entities and individual users.

The website offers a wide range of interactive services, including electronic case filing system, distance learning opportunities, electronic complaints submission and other services.

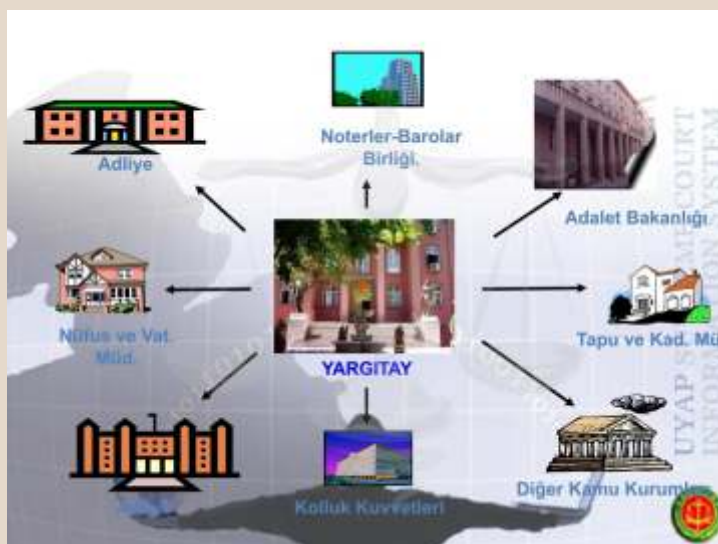
In addition, the website offers several manuals on the use of such services – a special guidebook on the use of website services, guides on use of electronic mailing system, filling and submission of applications, appeals to the courts.



Singapore ➤
South Korea ➤
Malaysia ➤
TURKEY ➤
German ➤
Russian Federation ➤



In 2006 Supreme Court of Turkey introduced UYAP National Judiciary Network System http://www.yargitay.gov.tr/belgeler/site/eng_sunum.pdf, to carry out judicial activities more efficiently and effectively, to accelerate business processes and create electronic archives. All the data comes from first instance courts, and further processing is done through this system. All the legislative and executive government branches have access to the system. It also allows to generate statistical reports.



The use of the system is governed by special articles of the procedural Civil Code of Turkey. UYAP information system offers a wide range of interactive services to the citizens and government authorities, including, data management, database of court decisions, file query, precedent search, access to data bank, access to economic disputes decisions, and sms-notification services.

This system is among the leading in the world, and received a number of awards, including United Nations award for public services, European E-State Award and other.

Singapore ➤
South Korea ➤
Malaysia ➤
Turkey ➤
GERMAN ➤
Russian Federation ➤

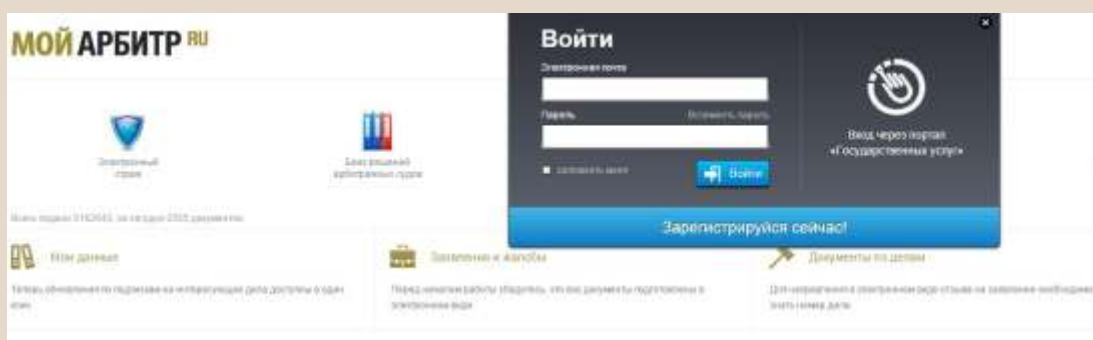


The Federal Court of Justice of Germany http://www.bundesgerichtshof.de/EN/Home/home_node.html provides users with access to a database of judgments made since January 1, 2000. To access Federal Courts judgments in English users can access database available at the portal of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Courts of European Union states. It has been released in April 2007 and allows to simultaneously query several search engines.

Singapore >
 South Korea >
 Malaysia >
 Turkey >
 German >
**RUSSIAN
FEDERATION >**



Russian Federation



The Supreme Court of Russian Federation provides a wide range of data and information to citizens, including statistical data, reviews of court practice, reference data, as well as the list of schedules trials through its web portal - <http://supcourt.ru/>. The web portal also provides an opportunity for citizens to file special requests to the Supreme Court.

The web portal also provides access to e-justice system related to economic disputes <https://my.arbitr.ru/#index>, which is carried out on the basis of a single portal of public services and gives citizens an opportunity to file claims, access the bank of arbitration cases, the calendar of trials, as well as the pending case files. The system also provides information to the public about the procedures for filing documents in electronic form.

EXPLORING THE U.S. EXPERIENCE IN OPENNESS OF JUDICIARY:



Caption: Hon. Judge Jeremy Fogel, Director of the Federal Judicial Center during a meeting with the Uzbekistan delegation.

With a growing legal awareness of the population and expanding activity of private sector, there is a need to improve the efficiency and transparency of the judiciary for a quick and efficient dispute resolution. The openness of the judiciary creates favorable conditions for human rights protection, as well as grants an opportunity for vulnerable groups of population to fair and open justice. It should be noted that ensuring the transparency of the judiciary is a complex process, requiring introduction of new operations into courts activity, particularly, specific tools are needed to ensure accessibility of legal acts and regulations, transparency of administrative procedures, as well as availability of relevant information and its widespread dissemination through communication channels enabling citizen feedback. In case of the justice system, the openness of courts will enhance the credibility of judiciary, strengthen citizen's trust and confidence in the judiciary and in perspective has the potential to improve the courts' performance.

Taking into account the growing need for openness and transparency, in order to explore the international best-practices and to stimulate its further introduction into the judiciary branch of Uzbekistan, the project conducted a study-tour to the USA during March 15-22, 2015. Judges of the Supreme Court and Supreme Economic Court of Uzbekistan, representatives of the



Caption: (from left to right) Kholmumin Yodgorov, Chairman of the Board for Civil Cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Nodir Juraev, Director of the Research Center under the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, James Eaglin, Director of Research Division, Federal Judicial Center



Caption: Representatives of Uzbekistan's judiciary visiting Kalbian Hagerty LLC

Research center of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan took part in the study tour.

In order to get a real exposure to the transparency and performance of the US judiciary the participants of the study tour visited a wide array of institutions directly involved in the US judicial system – public, private and non-governmental.

The representatives of Uzbekistan's judiciary met with the management of the Federal Judicial Center, which is the research and education agency of the federal judicial system of the United States. The participants met with Hon. Judge Jeremy Fogel, the Director of Federal Judicial Center, and discussed the training and research effort of the center for the federal judiciary on court administration and case management. Apart from that, considering the research and educational capacity of both the Federal Judicial Center and the Research Center under the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, the participants discussed further cooperation in continuous education of judges and court personnel. They also reviewed the existing judge training curricula, judge selection and evaluation mechanism, and discussed the issues of ethical conduct. It should be stressed that as a result of the

meeting Uzbekistan delegation and the staff of Federal Judicial Center exchanged the some findings of their research work.

For a more in depth exposure to the court administration practice in the U.S., representatives of Uzbekistan judicial system visited Administrative Office of U.S. Courts and National Center for State Courts (NCSC), which provide a broad range of services and functions including administrative, legal, financial, management, program, and information technology services to federal and state courts, respectively. The visitors from Uzbekistan reviewed the management, finance and communications systems of the federal courts, and particularly PACER case management/electronic case file system, its development history and amendments made into legal acts related to the introduction of PACER. During the meeting with the management of the NCSC representatives of Uzbekistan's judicial branch reviewed the continuous education curricula for judges, existing electronic case management system, particularly, E-filing portal. In addition, the participants learned about court performance assessment instruments such as Courtool. They also reviewed new technologies in the courts, including audio/video recording aimed at enhancing court performance and transparency.

To become more familiar with the differences in judicial branches, the participants visited D.C. District Court, Supreme Court of Virginia, and Arlington Court of Appeals. To get a better picture of various players in the judicial system of United States, they also held meetings at international law firm Kalbian Hagerty LLC, and the World Justice Project, which is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the world, well known by its WJP Rule of Law Index, that measures how the rule of law is experienced by ordinary people in 99 countries around the globe.

Based on the gained knowledge and observations from the study tour, the participants will share their proposals on enhancing the transparency and accessibility of courts in Uzbekistan and specific recommendations on effective implementation of Laws on "On petitions of physical bodies and legal entities" and "On transparency of the activity of bodies of state power and governing bodies".

International workshop, themed "Improving Effectiveness of the Court and Justice Administration in Uzbekistan: Challenges and perspectives" became the key event of the study tour. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the Johns Hopkins University affiliated the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, Silk Road Studies Program. The representatives of Uzbekistan judicial branch presented the main directions of the judicial and legal reform in Uzbekistan and the use of modern information and communication technologies to ensure transparency and openness of courts. The U.S. expertise represented by the Department of State, Federal Judicial Center, Department of Justice, state and federal courts, non-governmental organizations, private law firms, and scholars presented the U.S. experience in ensuring transparency and openness of the judiciary. Importantly, as a result of the workshop the participants also outlined further cooperation between the US and Uzbekistan in this area.



Caption: (from left to right) Abdukhamid Kamilov, Head of Coordination of activities of law enforcement and controlling bodies Unit, the President's Office, Nodir Juraev, Research center under the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Rustam Rasulov, Senior Consultant, the President's Office

Caption: (from left to right): Hon. Judge Jeremy Fogel, Director of Federal Judicial Center, H.E. Bakhtiyor Gulyamov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the United States, Dr. Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Daniel Rosenblum, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Affairs, Kholmumin Yodgorov, Chairman of the Board on civil cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Halilillo Turakhujaev, Chairman of the Tashkent city civil court.

The participants of the workshop discussed the transparency and openness of the judiciary, the social impact of transparency, as well as the existing continuous education programs for judges. The workshop received positive feedback from U.S. experts and scholars, served a networking opportunity for the participants allowing for further cooperation among judicial branches of the two countries.

Policy Advice

- The openness of the judiciary and access to information about the courts promotes legal literacy and enables vulnerable people to defend their rights and interests in an open and fair trial. Given the impact of the openness of the judicial system on the growth of the society, in particularly, creation of an enabling environment for private sector development, a Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On transparency of public authorities and administration" was adopted. In order assist the implementation of the Law, the project experts are developing a set of recommendations aimed at improving the openness of the Supreme Court, including specific strategies on outreach and communication with media and civil society, and organization of public events.

- Official website is among the most effective ways of communication between the judiciary and the citizens. To ensure transparency of the Supreme Court, the accessibility of relevant information by citizens, and to contribute to legal awareness raising of the population it has been proposed to improve the official website of the Supreme Court. The project prepared the concept of the new website, with the integration of advanced interactive services, as well as with an option to file cases on-line through "E-SUD" e-Justice system. Along with a variety of interactive services, an improved version of the website will give users an access to substantial information about the judicial system, in particular the Resolutions of the Plenum of the Supreme Court, all the necessary legal documents, sample documents, information on the location of all courts of general jurisdiction, as well as Frequently asked questions.

- In relation to the wide introduction of ICT into the activity of courts, and particularly, implementation of "E-SUD" e-justice system, the project developed a draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On introduction of changes and amendments into the Civil Procedural Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan".

- The Project has initiated a study aimed at harmonization of existing legislation related to commercial litigation based on the Resolutions of the Plenum of the Supreme Economic Court and the Economic Procedural Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to the study findings it is planned to prepare a draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On introduction of amendments and additions to the Economic Procedural Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan" on the basis of the legislative initiative of the Supreme Economic Court.

- The experts of the project are also in the process of developing a manual "Samples of judicial decisions", designed to improve the drafting of judicial decisions, improve their quality, and will be used to further enhance the professional skills and exchange of experience among the judges.



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